



G-5's "Eye on AMC"

U.S. Army Materiel Command

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Excalibur demonstration shows more accurate munition

U.S. military troops in Iraq and Afghanistan could have a significantly more accurate howitzer-fired munition by March, following a successful demonstration of the Army's first fully autonomous guided projectile, Excalibur, recently at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

Officials from the Army Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems located at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., say the 155mm guided Excalibur round, known as the XM982, is more accurate than any currently available. A total of 165 Excalibur rounds have been contracted for \$23 million.

The demonstration brings the program a step closer toward fulfilling an urgent request to put Excalibur in Soldier's hands by early 2006.

The projectile's accuracy is better than 10 meters, officials said, a figure that represents a huge improvement over existing munitions. Excalibur will be used in Army and Marine Corps howitzers, to include the M109A6 Paladin, the M777 Lightweight 155 Howitzer and the Future Combat System's Non-Line-Of-Sight Cannon.

"Excalibur will reduce collateral damage, increase survivability of friendly troops and accomplish the mission more efficiently," according to Col. Ole Knudson, the project manager who oversees Army combat ammunition development programs.

Hispanic comedienne visits AMC, celebrates heritage with workers

Jackie Guerra, a Mexican-American actress and comedienne who was named after the president her parents most admired, visited the U.S. Army Materiel Command Sept. 26 for the command's National Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Guerra is most known for being the first Latina to star in her own network sitcom, "First Time Out." She has hosted several show's including Style Network's "You're Invited," and started her own jewelry line. However, she began her professional career as a political activist and organizer.

"As I traveled around the world, I was surprised how little people knew about me and my culture," she said. "There's a lot of work to do. My life as an activist has crossed into my life as an entertainer."

And as a tireless advocate for the Latino community, Guerra is asking those outside of the community to help celebrate their culture, not just tolerate it.

Noting that in the next 12 years the Hispanic population will be the largest minority group in the United States, Guerra stressed to the Latinos in the audience to be "well-equipped and prepared" like service members who serve their country, like what her parents aspired to do when they came to this country nearly four decades ago.

During her visit to AMC, Guerra donated \$1,000 worth of her jewelry, which will be auctioned off in a silent auction. The proceeds will go to Hurricane Katrina fundraising relief efforts.

Did you know ...

The Picatinny Arsenal Small Business Office, with the cooperation of the New Jersey Small Business Development Center and the Small Business Association recently held a Service Disabled Veteran Small Business Expo, which offered advice to veterans on what the Veteran Business Enterprise Center can offer to assist the veterans.

More than 187 service disabled veteran small business owners from 11 states attended, along with 17 corporate and 14 public sponsors.